IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-154 (Cancelled)

155.   (Currently Amended) A method for selecting media, comprising the steps of:

storing data describing available media and storing data representing ~~characteristics of media~~ previously selected media ~~by a user, wherein said data representing characteristics are not input by the user~~;

automatically performing a search of said available media for a correspondence to data representing ~~said~~ content characteristics of the ~~media~~ previously selected media ~~by said user, wherein said data representing content characteristics are not received as an input from a human user~~; and

automatically issuing a notification ~~notifying said user~~ of available media having characteristics corresponding to, but not identical to ~~characteristics of~~ previously selected media, wherein said media comprises a media program.

156.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 155 wherein said media comprises television programs and said data describing available media comprises a channel guide list comprising content characteristics.

157.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 155, wherein said step of ~~notifying said user~~ automatically issuing a notification includes the step of producing a display including a list of the available media meeting a predetermined correspondence criteria on a display screen

for viewing ~~by the user~~.

158.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 157, further comprising a step of altering the produced display ~~by a user using~~ in dependence on at least input received from a data entry device.

159.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 158, further comprising the step of selecting one of the available media items displayed on the list of available media.

160.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 155, wherein said data representing said characteristics of ~~media~~ previously selected media ~~by said user~~ comprises media theme information.

161.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 155, further comprising the step of displaying a list of available programs, and receiving an input for recording a selected one of the available programs.

162.   (Currently Amended)   A system, comprising:

    a controller ~~for controlling~~ component configured to control delivery of a media program ~~to a user~~; and

    a processor ~~for determining~~ component configured to automatically determine a correspondence between data representing content characteristics of media within a set of available media programs with data representing content characteristics of ~~media~~ previously

delivered media ~~presented to the user~~, wherein said data representing <u>content</u> characteristics are not <u>received as</u> input ~~by the~~ <u>from a human</u> user, and producing a signal dependent on <u>a degree of</u> said correspondence.

163.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 162, wherein said signal controls a recording of a media program.

164.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 162, wherein said signal produces a list of choices ~~for a user~~ through a human user interface.

165.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 162, wherein ~~a user~~ interaction with said system <u>through a user interface</u> serves as an input to an adaptive algorithm of said processor <u>component</u> for determining said correspondence.

166.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 162, wherein said at least one memory further stores information regarding at least two humans, wherein said signal is dependent on a defined set of humans.

167.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 162, wherein a presentation of media is restricted in dependence on a financial transaction.

168. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting media items, comprising:

(a)   a user interface for receiving a selection of a media item ~~from a user~~ and for delivering a response to the selection;

(b)   a processor for _automatically_ searching media items available for selection and for presenting a recommendation of at least one available media item ~~to the user~~, based on a _degree of_ correspondence of said selection and _content_ characteristics of available media items input independently of ~~the~~ _a human_ user; and

(c)   an accounting database for recording commercial transaction data relating to selections _received_ ~~made by the user~~.

169.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 168, wherein said media items comprise television programs and said stored characteristics comprise a channel guide list, and television program-descriptive text accompanies said channel guide list.

170.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 168, wherein said recommendation presented by said processor ~~produces~~ _comprises_ a display including a list of the available media meeting a predetermined correspondence criteria on a display screen for viewing ~~by the user~~.

171.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 168, wherein said characteristics comprise an identification of a program type.

172.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 168, wherein said processor controls a recording of a said media item.

173.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 168, wherein said database is configured to store ~~stores~~ a history of selections made by a plurality of users.

174.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 155, further comprising the step of receiving media programming information as the data representing characteristics of media.

175.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <u>177</u> ~~155~~, further comprising the step of automatically generating data representing characteristics of media.

176.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 155, wherein the data representing characteristics comprises a description of media <u>content</u>.

177.   (Currently Amended) A method for proposing media, comprising the steps of:

storing data representing <u>content</u> characteristics of media previously selected ~~by a respective user~~, wherein the data representing characteristics of media previously selected ~~by the respective user~~ are not input by ~~that~~ <u>a respective human</u> user;

determining a set of available media programs, the set being associated with data representing <u>content</u> characteristics of members of the set of available media programs;

<u>automatically</u> determining a <u>degree of</u> correspondence between data representing <u>content</u> <u>characteristics</u> a member of the set of available media programs and <u>the</u> data representing <u>content</u> characteristics of ~~media~~ previously selected <u>media</u> ~~by the user~~; and

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outputting, ~~for the user,~~ an identification of at least one member of the set of available media programs having <u>content</u> characteristics corresponding to <u>content</u> characteristics of previously selected media ~~by that user~~ <u>in dependence on the automatically determined correspondence</u>.

178.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 177, wherein the identification of at least one member of the set of available media programs having <u>content</u> characteristics corresponding to <u>content</u> characteristics of previously selected media ~~by that user~~ is presented as a selectable object in a graphic user interface.

179.   (Currently Amended) A method for presenting media, comprising the steps of:

storing data representing at least one <u>content</u> parameter relating prior selections by a respective user, the at least one parameter not being input by that respective user;

determining a set of available media programs, each member of the set having at least one associated <u>content</u> parameter;

<u>automatically</u> determining a degree of correspondence of prior selections by the respective user and members of the set of available media programs based on at least the <u>content</u> parameters relating to prior selections by the respective user and the associated <u>content</u> parameters of members of the set of available media programs; and

outputting a reference to at least one member of the set of available media programs ~~having an associated parameter~~ based on at least <u>the automatically determined degree of</u> ~~a~~ correspondence ~~to the at least one parameter relating to prior selections by the respective user~~.

180. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 179, wherein the reference comprises an object in a graphic user interface.

181. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 179, wherein the reference comprises a selectable object in a graphic user interface.

182. (Currently Amended) A method for proposing media, comprising the steps of:

storing data representing content-dependent characteristics of media previously selected by a respective user;

determining a set of available media, the set being associated with data representing content-dependent characteristics of members of the set of available media;

automatically determining a degree of correspondence between content-dependent characteristics of available media and content-dependent characteristics of media previously selected by the respective user; and

outputting, for the user, an identification of at least one member of the set of available media having content-dependent characteristics corresponding to content-dependent characteristics of previously selected media by that the respective user.

183. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting media, comprising the steps of:

receiving data describing a plurality of content characteristics of available media;

defining data representing a plurality of content characteristics of media previously selected by a respective user;

automatically determining a relation between the available media and the media previously selected by the respective user, based on a respective plurality content characteristics of the available media and media previously selected by the respective user; and

producing an output in dependence on the automatically determined relation.

184. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 183, wherein the available media comprises at least one available media program.

185. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 183, wherein the available media comprises at least one television program.

186. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 183, wherein the plurality of content characteristics of the available media are derived from an electronic program guide.

187. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 183, wherein said output comprises a displayed list of hypertext entries representing available media, further comprising the step of receiving a selection of one of the hypertext entries.

188. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 183, wherein at least one of the plurality of content characteristics of the available media comprises theme information.

189. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 183, further comprising the step of recording at least one of the available media in dependence on the output.

190.　(Previously Presented)　　　The method according to claim 183, further comprising the step of restricting a use of available media in dependence on a financial transaction.

191.　(Previously Presented)　　　The method according to claim 183, further comprising the step of financially accounting in dependence on the output.

192.　(Currently Amended) The method according to claim 183, further comprising the step of delivering an advertisement ~~to the user~~ in dependence on characteristics of media previously selected by the user.

193.　(Currently Amended) The method according to claim 183, further comprising the step of accounting for delivery of an advertisement ~~to the user~~.